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AUTHOR Purves, Alan C.
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ABSTRACT

Elaborating on the complex nature of literacy from a social, epistemological, psychological, and pedagogical perspective, this book describes the group of people called the "scribal society." The book notes that scribes were (and still are) not simply people who can decode and encode written language, or "text"--scribes must also possess knowledge about what is to be written, to whom, under what circumstances, and what is intended by the writer of a text that has already been written. Chapter titles include: (1) "The Literacy Crisis: Whose Crisis Is It?"; (2) "The Scribal Society from the Dordogne Valley to Silicon Valley"; (3) "What Are You Looking at When You Read This and How Do You Know? The Ontology of Texts"; (4) "What Scribes Do All Day: The Psychology of Literacy"; and (5) "Becoming a Scribe and Other Unnatural Acts." (RS)

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